

# Statistics Weekly

Thursday, 26 March 1992

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## Manufactured goods prices still lower than one year earlier

Between January 1991 and January 1992 the price index of articles produced by the manufacturing industry fell 0.3 per cent; the fourth successive month of negative annual change.

The index recorded a monthly decrease of 0.1 per cent in January 1992, with lower prices for about a quarter of the items in the index. The main contribution to the decrease came from lower prices for refined petroleum products and alumina. These decreases were partly offset by price increases for about 40 per cent of the items in the index, of which the main contributor was sugar.

Variations in the rate of price change for different sectors of manufacturing are shown below.

PRICES OF MANUFACTURED GOODS, JANUARY 1992  
Percentage change

Manufacturing sector	From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year
Food and beverages	0.4	3.4
Clothing and footwear	0.1	3.0
Transport equipment	0.3	2.6
Fabricated metal products	0.3	-0.3
Other industrial machinery	-0.2	-0.7
Chemical products	-0.4	-1.1
Basic metal products	0.1	-6.0
Petroleum products	-1.8	-16.8
Total manufacturing	-0.1	-0.3

For further information, order the publication *Price Indexes of Articles Produced by Manufacturing Industry, Australia* (6412.0), or contact Peter Cordy on (06) 252 5541.

## Export prices rise

Export prices rose 1.9 per cent between December 1991 and January 1992, the third small monthly rise in a row. This increase again reflected, to a large extent, the fall in the value of the Australian dollar (against the major trading currencies).

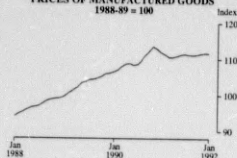
Price increases were recorded for about three-quarters of the items in the index, the largest being for wool, wheat, sugar and liquefied natural gas.

These increases were partly offset by price decreases for about 20 per cent of the index items, the only significant decreases being for refined petroleum products and alumina.

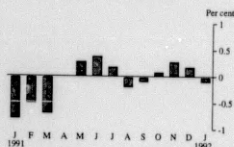
On an annual basis, export prices fell by 5.5 per cent between January 1991 and January 1992.

*Continued ...*

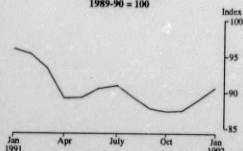
PRICES OF MANUFACTURED GOODS  
1988-89 = 100



Change from previous month



EXPORT PRICES  
1989-90 = 100



The wide range of price changes for different commodities is shown below.

EXPORT PRICES, JANUARY 1992  
Percentage change

Commodity	From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year
Vegetable products	4.2	18.1
Prepared food stuffs	5.6	5.5
Live animals and animal products	0.5	2.1
Motor vehicles, aircraft and vessels	0.6	-0.5
Machinery and appliances	0.5	-2.8
Mineral products	0.4	-5.3
Gold, diamonds and coin	0.4	-9.0
Products of chemical or allied industries	-1.5	-10.3
Base metals	2.9	-13.6
Wool and cotton fibres	9.1	-17.9
All exports	1.9	-5.5

For further information, order the publication *Export Price Index, Australia (6405.0)*, or contact Peter Cordy on (06) 252 5541.

## Housing finance drops in January

Seasonally adjusted housing finance commitments in January 1992 dropped by 7.1 per cent following two consecutive monthly increases.

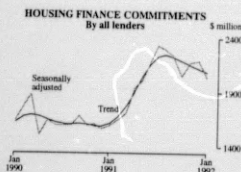
Lending commitments for the construction of dwellings and the purchase of established dwellings were down 12.1 per cent and 7.4 per cent respectively. However there was an increase of 13.5 per cent in lending commitments for the purchase of newly erected dwellings. As the table below shows, all categories were significantly higher than January 1991, with total housing finance commitments up 28 per cent.

HOUSING FINANCE COMMITMENTS, JANUARY 1992  
Seasonally adjusted

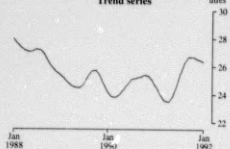
Purpose of commitment	\$ million	Percentage change from	
		Previous month	Corresponding month of previous year
Construction of dwellings	341.3	-12.1	17.0
Purchase of newly erected dwellings	128.9	13.5	27.9
Purchase of established dwellings	1,566.6	-7.4	30.7
Total	2,036.8	-7.1	28.0

Lending by permanent building societies remains strong, up 24.7 per cent on December 1991 in seasonally adjusted terms — the third consecutive monthly increase — while banks and other lenders were down 12.3 per cent and 8.5 per cent respectively.

For further information, order the publication *Housing Finance for Owner Occupation, Australia (5609.0)*, or contact Mark Dennis on (06) 252 7129 or Harry Wilson on (06) 252 6170.



DOMESTIC WINE SALES  
Trend series



## Buoyant sales for table wines

Total wine sales in January 1992 were 25.9 million litres seasonally adjusted, a decrease of 6.2 per cent on December 1991, but the highest January figure since 1988. The trend in domestic sales has levelled over the last four months, following a rise over the period May to September 1991.

For the seven months ended January 1992, total wine sales were 198.9 million litres, an increase of 11.5 million litres over the corresponding period last year. The most significant movement by far was in sales of table wine (up 12.2 million litres) partially offset by small declines in fortified wine, sparkling wine and vermouth with minor increases in carbonated wine and flavoured wine.

The large increase in table wine was not spread evenly by wine type nor by type of container. Sales of dry white wine, in the seven months ended January 1992, increased by 11.6 million litres with:

- ☐ bottle sales up by 2.7 million litres,
- ☐ cask sales up by 8.2 million litres,
- ☐ bulk sales up by 0.9 million litres, and
- ☐ flagon sales showing a small decline.

Sales of sweet white wine fell by 4.5 million litres, with significant declines in bottle and cask sales (1.0 and 3.5 million litres respectively) while red wine sales were up by 5.4 million litres, with the major increases being:

- ☐ bottle sales up 1.9 million litres,
- ☐ cask sales up 2.4 million litres, and
- ☐ bulk sales up 1.1 million litres.

Brandy sales for the seven months ended January 1992 are 715,000 litres of alcohol. This 26.1 per cent drop over the 1991 period continued the trend of the past 10 years.

Wine exports continue to grow. For the six months ended December 1991, exports valued at \$116.5 million were recorded, compared with \$88.8 million for the six months ended December 1990.

EXPORTS OF AUSTRALIAN WINE  
Six months ended December 1991

Country/Region	'000 litres	\$'000
Europe and USSR	24,287	70,746
United Kingdom	11,114	43,353
Sweden	8,775	16,591
Oceania and Antarctica	4,134	11,512
New Zealand	3,609	9,726
North America	6,668	26,189
USA	3,489	16,083
Canada	3,180	10,106
NE Asia	1,461	4,694
Rest of world	1,134	3,381

## The Top End is fit

A recent survey of urban Northern Territorians has found that they are more interested in exercise than other Australians.

About three-quarters of Territorians were involved in at least one sport or physical activity during the twelve months to October 1991. This level of participation is slightly higher than that found in a similar survey for all Australians.

The majority of people who participated in physical activities did so for enjoyment and recreation. The other significant reason given was fitness or exercise.

The extent of participation was high, with most participants having more than one physical activity. Most participants were also involved in these activities every month. One-third of participants in fact spent at least eight hours on physical activity each week.

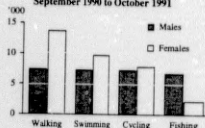
Over 110 different physical activities were performed, with the most popular being walking, swimming, cycling, fishing and aerobics. Territorians swam and cycled more, but walked less than people from the other States and the ACT.

More people walked, cycled and did aerobics for exercise than for any other reason although a significant proportion of cyclists, (one in three), cycled for transport. In contrast, most people swam and fished for enjoyment, recreation and relaxation.

Nearly one in two of those persons who did not participate in sport or related activity over the twelve months either did not have enough time or were too busy to be involved.

For further information, order the publication *Sport and Recreation, Urban Northern Territory* (4108.7), or contact Mick Sullivan on (089) 815 222.

MAIN PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES IN THE  
NORTHERN TERRITORY  
September 1990 to October 1991



## This week in brief ...

### □ Personal finance

Personal finance commitments for January 1992 totalled \$1,440.1 million, a decrease of 5.1 per cent on December 1991 and a decrease of 4.4 per cent on January 1991. This was the lowest level of commitments for personal finance since December 1990.

Source: *Personal Finance, Australia, January 1992* (5642.0).

### □ Friendly societies

The value of total assets of friendly societies at the end of December 1991 was \$7,721 million, an increase of \$289 million (3.9%) over the September quarter 1991. The increase was largely the result of a rise of \$519 million (31.6%) in the value of the holdings of long-term State and local government securities. Other increases were relatively small. The overall rise was offset by a significant decrease of \$303 million (20.1%) in the value of cash and deposits.

Source: *Assets and Liabilities of Friendly Societies: Australia, December Quarter 1991* (5660.0).

## Inquiries

The ABS supplies a wide range of statistical information:

- ☐ through its bookshops
- ☐ by mail order (including subscription)
- ☐ by facsimile
- ☐ electronically.

To order any of the publications that appear in *Statistics Weekly* or to inquire about the statistics and services available from the ABS, contact Information Services at any of the offices listed below. An Information Consultancy Service in each office provides assistance of a more extensive or complex nature.

### ABS Central Office

☐ PO BOX 10  
BELCONNEN ACT 2616  
☎ (06) 252 6627  
FAX (06) 253 1404

### ABS State Offices

☎ NSW (02) 268 4611  
Vic. (03) 615 7000  
Qld (07) 222 6351  
WA (09) 323 5140  
SA (08) 237 7100  
Tas. (002) 20 5800  
NT (089) 432 111

## All the week's releases: 18 to 24 March

### General

Publications Advice, 20 March 1992 (1105.0; free)  
Publications Advice, 24 March 1992 (1105.0; free)  
Monthly Summary of Statistics, Aust., March 1992 (1304.0; \$20.00)  
Statistics Weekly, 19 March 1992 (1318.0; \$4.20)  
Economic Indicators, Qld, March 1992 (1307.3; \$6.50)

### Census of Population and Housing

Census 86 — Rural Aust., 30 June 1986 (2507.0; \$12.50) — *new issue*  
1991 Census — First Counts for Christmas Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands, 6 August 1991 (2703.9; \$10.00) — *new issue*

### Demography

Estimated Residential Population in Statistical Local Areas, Vic., June 1991, Preliminary (3203.2; \$15.00)  
Demography, Victoria, 1990 (3311.2; \$27.00) — *new issue*

### National accounts, finance and foreign trade

Foreign Trade, Aust.: Merchandise Exports and Imports by Country, December Qtr 1991 (5422.0; \$19.00) (*Previously: Exports and Imports, Aust.: Trade with Selected Countries and Major Country Groups*)  
Housing Finance for Owner Occupation, Aust., January 1992 (5609.0; \$10.50)  
Personal Finance, Aust., January 1992 (5642.0; \$6.00)  
Assets and Liabilities of Friendly Societies, Aust., December Qtr 1991 (5660.0; \$10.50)

### Labour statistics and prices

Multiple Jobholding, Aust., July 1991, July 1991 (6216.0; \$12.50)  
Export Price Index, Aust., January 1992 (6405.0; \$8.00)  
Price Indexes of Articles Produced by Manufacturing Industry, Aust., January 1992 (6412.0; \$10.50)

### Agriculture

Livestock and Livestock Products, WA, 1990-91 Season (7221.5; \$15.00)  
Summary of Crops, WA, 1990-91 Season (7330.5; \$20.00) — *new issue*  
Agriculture, Tasmania, 1992 (7113.6; \$1.00)

### Secondary industry and distribution

Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Transport Equipment, January 1992 (8363.0; \$6.00)  
Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Energy Products, January 1992 (8368.0; \$6.00)  
Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Wood and Wood Products, January 1992 (8369.0; \$6.00)  
Sales of Australian Wine and Brandy by Winemakers, January 1992 (8504.0; \$10.50)  
Tourist Accommodation, SA, December Qtr 1991 (8635.4; \$20.00)



## Calendar of key releases

Expected releases over the fortnight to 7 April 1992

### March

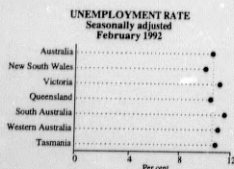
- 26** Average Weekly Earnings, States and Australia, November 1991 (6302.0; \$10.50)  
 Price Index of Materials Used in Building Other Than House Building, Eight Capital Cities, January 1992 (6407.0; \$10.50)  
 Price Index of Materials Used in House Building, Six State Capital Cities and Canberra, January 1992 (6408.0; \$8.00)  
 Price Indexes of Materials Used in Manufacturing Industries, Australia, January 1992 (6411.0; \$10.50)  
 Registrations of New Motor Vehicles, Australia, February 1992 Preliminary (9301.0; \$10.50)
- 27** Manufacturing Production, Australia, February 1992 Preliminary (8301.0; \$10.50)
- 31** Building Approvals, Australia, February 1992 (8731.0; \$13.00)

### April

- 1** Balance of Payments, Australia, February 1992 (5301.0; \$16.00)
- 2** Job Vacancies and Overtime, Australia, February 1992 (6354.0; \$12.00)

## The latest ...

Changes to key State indicators — consolidated to  
 24 March 1992



Statistics Weekly  
 26 March 1992

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
— Percentage change from same period previous year —									
New capital expenditure (Sept. qtr 91)*	-11.4	-19.5	-15.7	1.3	-11.6	-24.0	n.a.	n.a.	-14.1
Retail turnover (Jan. 92) (trend estimate)	3.7	2.0	4.9	-0.8	6.9	3.7	n.a.	11.2	3.6
New motor vehicle registrations (Jan. 92)†	11.9	2.4	-9.3	3.8	14.4	-1.5	14.4	-8.4	5.1
Number of dwelling unit approvals (Jan. 92)	1.6	-3.3	27.5	21.2	42.6	30.1	37.5	78.6	15.4
Value of total building work done (Sept. qtr 91)	-10.1	-34.2	-7.1	-24.4	-18.7	8.6	-9.6	0.5	-17.2
Employed persons (Feb. 92)*	-1.0	-3.5	2.8	-3.8	-0.1	-2.6	5.7	-0.3	-1.1
Capital city consumer price index (Dec. qtr 91)	1.5	1.7	1.8	1.8	-0.1	1.8	1.6	1.7	1.5
Average weekly earnings (full-time adult ordinary time) (Aug. 91)	5.1	4.3	4.3	5.6	6.9	4.1	6.9	4.9	4.9
Population (June 91)	1.3	1.1	2.2	1.2	2.0	0.9	1.0	2.9	1.5
Room nights in licensed hotels and motels, etc. (Sept. qtr 91)	-0.9	2.2	11.4	-1.5	3.7	-1.0	0.4	-5.7	3.1

\* Seasonally adjusted except for NT and ACT. † Seasonally adjusted except for Tas., NT and ACT.

# The latest ...

8

## Key national indicators – consolidated to 24 March 1992

				Latest figure available		Percentage change (a) on	
		Period		Original	Seasonally adjusted	Previous period	Corresponding period last year
<b>National production</b>							
Gross domestic product (A) — 1984-85 prices	\$m	Dec. qtr 91		n.a.	64,075	0.3	-0.5
<b>Industrial activity</b>							
New capital expenditure — current prices	\$m	Dec. qtr 91		6,253	5,696	-12.6	-17.7
Expected new capital expenditure — 1984-85 prices	"	Six months to June 92		4,921	4,487	-11.4	-14.5
Retail turnover — current prices	"	Jan. 92		11,732	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
— 1984-85 prices	"	Dec. qtr 91		7,642	7,853	3.8	4.8
New motor vehicle registrations (e)	no.	Jan. 92		17,320	13,355	-0.8	1.0
Dwelling unit approvals	"	Jan. 92		38,279	46,241	12.1	5.1
Value of all building approvals	\$m	Jan. 92		10,605	12,833	5.4	20.3
Value of total building work done — current prices	"	"		1,578	1,766	0.1	5.9
— 1984-85 prices	"	Sept. qtr 91		6,026	5,825	-8.2	-17.2
Manufacturers' sales — current prices	"	Dec. qtr 91		3,828	3,701	-7.8	-16.8
— 1984-85 prices	"	"		36,551	34,813	-0.9	-3.4
Expected manufacturers' sales	"	Six months to June 92		25,418	24,215	-1.0	-2.8
				69,535	n.a.	n.a.	-3.2
<b>Labour</b>							
Employed persons	'000	Feb. 92		7,650.9	7,705.5	-0.2	-1.1
Unemployment rate †	%	"		11.5	10.5	0.2	1.9
Participation rate †	"	"		63.5	63.2	-0.1	-0.4
Job vacancies	'000	Nov. 91		24.9	25.8	2.8	-27.0
Average weekly overtime per employee	hours	"		1.14	1.06	-9.7	-15.1
<b>Prices, profits and wages</b>							
Consumer price index	1980-81 = 100.0	Dec. qtr 91		217.7	n.a.	0.9	1.5
Price index of materials used in manufacturing industries (e)	1984-85 = 100.0	Dec. 91		121.2	n.a.	0.5	-5.9
Price index of articles produced by manufacturing industry	1988-89 = 100.0	Jan. 92		111.6	n.a.	-0.1	-0.3
Company profits before income tax	\$m	Sept. qtr 91		2,982	2,841	21.2	-17.9
Average weekly earnings (Full-time adults; ordinary time) (e)	\$	Aug. 91		580.10	n.a.	2.2	4.4
<b>Interest rates (b) (monthly average)</b>							
90-day bank bills †	% per annum	Jan. 92		7.55	n.a.	-0.15	-4.3
10-year Treasury bonds †	"	"		10.10	n.a.	0.70	-1.4
<b>Balance of payments</b>							
Exports of merchandise	\$m	Jan. 92		4,375	4,483	-1.3	3.4
Imports of merchandise	"	"		4,023	4,002	1.6	-4.9
Balance on merchandise trade (c)	"	"		352	481	-20.0	278.7
Balance of goods and services (c)	"	"		182	268	-38.0	n.a.
Balance on current account (c)	"	"		-1,028	-861	-43.7	34.9
Terms of trade (d)	1984-85 = 100.0	Dec. qtr 91		n.a.	97.1	-2.9	-4.5
<b>Foreign investment</b>							
Net foreign debt	\$m	31 Dec. 91		144,772	n.a.	2.7	7.6
Net foreign liabilities	"	"		194,273	n.a.	4.3	10.5
<b>Exchange rates (monthly average)</b>							
\$US	per \$A	Jan. 92		0.7485	n.a.	-3.1	-3.9
Trade weighted index	May 1970 = 100.0	"		55.4	n.a.	-3.5	-3.8
<b>Other indicators</b>							
Population (resident at end of qtr)	million	June 91		17.3	n.a.	0.3	1.5
Overseas visitor arrivals	'000	Dec. 91		267	188	-5.5	4.5

(a) Based on seasonally adjusted figures where available. (b) Source: Reserve Bank of Australia. (c) For percentage changes, a minus sign indicates an increase in the deficit; no sign means a decrease in the deficit or an increase in the surplus. (d) The ratio of the price of goods and services for exports to that for imports. (e) Later figures expected to be released Thursday, 26 March 1992.

NOTES: † = change is shown in terms of percentage points. n.a. = not available.

Figures have been taken from a variety of ABS publications. Copies may be obtained from Information Services (see page 6).

Some of the figures shown are preliminary, some final, and some are revisions of previously published figures. Users should check the latest relevant publication or with the ABS Information Services if the status of the statistic is important.

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